Australian Bureau of Statistics

Census
100 years 1911–2011
9 August 2011

EDUCATION SERVICES UNIT
Activity: 7.1 Intermediate

Name: _____

Date: _____

Census 2011

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is responsible for developing and administering Australia's Census of Population and Housing. This activity will help you understand the processes of a Census by matching frequently asked questions with their answers.

1 List 3 or 4 questions that you think people might want to know about the Census. Also list who might ask these questions.

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

2 Compare your responses with someone else in your class. Write down a question that was different to yours.

.....

.....

3 Discuss with your class what questions other people had.

4 Look at the questions listed in the table on Page 2 and:

- **a** Place a tick next to any that are the same as ones raised by your class.
- **b** Use numbers to show the order that you think the questions will be in.
- **c** Discuss your answers with your class and try to agree on an order. Put this order in the last column of the table.

5 On pages 2, 3 and 4 there are answers to the questions shown in the table. Cut the statements out and match them to the correct question.
Note: definitions of words in bold in the statements appear in the glossary.

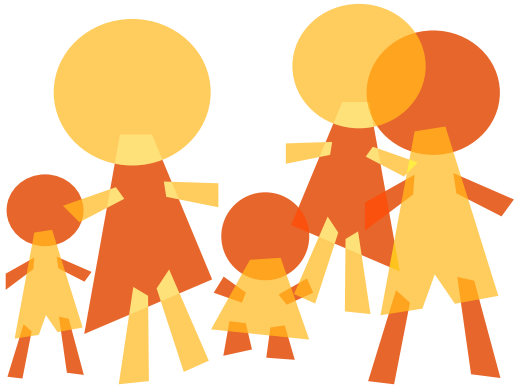

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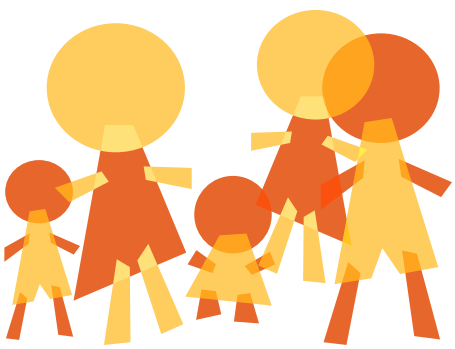
Table for Q4

Question	On my list? ✓ or ✗	Order 1-11	Class order
Is it compulsory?			
Who uses Census information?			
How does the ABS make sure of my privacy?			
How secure is the eCensus?			
Is my information going to be provided to other government agencies such as Centrelink, Tax Office or Department of Housing			
Why is the Census needed?			
What are the benefits of having a Census?			
How are the Census results used?			
What is the eCensus?			
What is the Census?			
Who is counted in the Census?			

Sentences for Q5: *Cut out the sentences, match them with the appropriate question in the table and then write the question's number in the box.*

☐ The Census is necessary for communities and all levels of government for the planning of services and facilities.



Q5: Continued

Census data are used in many ways such as:

- to **estimate** the population of each state, territory and local government area.
- to work out **electoral areas** and the number of people to be to be elected to the **House of Representatives** from each state and territory.
- to work out how to share Federal government funds between the states and territories.
- to give governments and other users information they can use for planning, administration and **policy** development.
- to help plan basic services such as housing, social security, transport, education, industry, shops and hospitals.

No! By law, the ABS must protect the privacy of individuals and cannot give information that will allow anyone to be identified to any third party. Organisations outside the ABS will not be given data about an individual person or individual household. The privacy of data is protected by the Census and Statistics Act and the **Privacy** Act. It is against the law for any ABS staff, including temporary employees to give out personal information outside the ABS. Organisations such as the Tax Office and credit groups cannot get personal details from the Census

The **eCensus** is an electronic option for returning your Census form, which allows you to complete the Census via the Internet.

The ABS has an excellent record of maintianing the **privacy** of the information provided to it for over 100 years of operations. All Census forms (including names and addresses are **pulped** and recycled under strict supervision after processing.

The Census includes all people, except **foreign diplomats** and their families, who are in Australia on **Census Night**. This includes:

- People working or living on boats in Australian waters.
- Visitors to Australia regardless of how long they've been in the country or how long they plan to stay.
- People outside but normally resident in Australia who are not subject to outbound migration formalities, such as those on oil and gas rigs off the Australian coast.
- People of the Torres Strait Islands , the Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island.
- People "over-wintering" in the Australian Antarctic Territory.
- Overseas visitors to Australia.
- Homeless people.
- People on aeroplanes travelling between Australian destinations on **Census Night**.
- People on ships travelling between Australian destinations on **Census Night**.
- All children, including newborn babies born before midnight on **Census Night**.
- People in detention centres and prisons.
- Transport drivers on the road.
- People in hospitals and institutions.

Q5: *Continued*

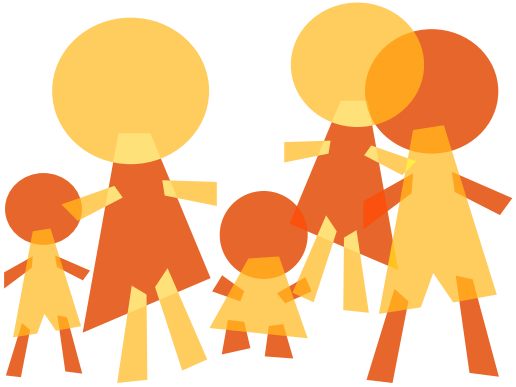
- [ ] The Census of Population and Housing is the largest statistical operation undertaken by the ABS. It aims to accurately measure the number of people in Australia on Census Night, their key features and the places in which they live.

- [ ] Census data are used by community organisations, private institutions and the government to help plan things such as where to provide services for the **elderly** and young people.
  The number of people elected to the **House of Representatives** is also based on Census figures, as is federal funding to the states and territories. Census information is used as the basis for allocation of **Goods and Services Tax** (GST) money to the states and territories.

- [ ] To make sure that your information is delivered to the ABS free of **tampering**, the strongest **encryption** technology has been used. **eCensus** data sent to the ABS via the Internet is not able to be read by anyone outside the ABS.
  At the end of the Census, the hard disk drives used to store information will be thoroughly **wiped** under the **supervision** of the ABS to ensure there is no possibility of any Census data being accessed by any **unauthorised person**.

- [ ] Yes. The Census and Statistics Act (1905) which **authorises** the Census also makes it **compulsory** to complete the Census form. On Census Night, you are asked to answer the questions on the Census form. If you do not answer the questions, the Australian Statistician has the power to direct you to provide the information.

- [ ] Census information is used by all sections of the community, from state and federal government to town planners, community groups, students, large and small businesses and more.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Glossary of Census and related terms

ABS:	the Australian Bureau of Statistics is the national agency responsible for developing and administering the Census
Authorises:	gives permission for, allows
Benefits:	advantages
Census:	a collection of information about everyone in a population. The Census of Population and Housing aims to measure the number of persons in Australia, their key characteristics, and their dwellings.
Census Night:	a night set aside for everyone to record their details on the Census form
Compulsory:	must be completed
eCensus:	is a Census form that can be completed and returned via the Internet
Elderly:	older people
Electoral areas:	an area described in law that can elect one member to the federal, state or territory lower houses of parliament
Encryption:	scrambling information or putting it into code so that it cannot be read
Estimate:	a number based on available information
FAQ:	frequently asked questions
Federal funding:	money from the Australian government
Foreign diplomats:	public servants who represent other countries' governments but live in Australia
GST:	money gathered by the government from the Goods and Services tax
House of Representatives:	one of the two houses of the Australian Federal Parliament—sometimes called the 'lower house'
Policy:	plans and rules
Privacy:	keeping personal details private
Pulped:	crushed and mixed with water
Tampering:	changing without permission
Unauthorised person:	a person who doesn't have permission to do something